

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a. The following phrases in the claims lack proper antecedent basis since they were not properly earlier referred to:

- i. "the surface" (claim 1, line 4).
- ii. "the operational connection" (claim 3, lines 1 and 2).
- iii. "the forks" (claim 4, line 3).

b. The following phrases in the claims are vague, indefinite, and/or awkwardly and confusingly worded:

- i. "a shell . . . head" (claim 1, line 3).
- ii. "the operational . . . this" (claim 3, lines 1-3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iaboni et al(4,163,302) in view of the Great Britain reference(1,407,192) and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art(AAPA).

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a. Iaboni et al discloses a device for cleaning a wall of stone or concrete material, which comprises; as broadly recited, "a shell", a cleaning head 28, a carriage 1 intended for moving at least along a surface and supporting the cleaning head so that the cleaning head performs an upward and downward abrading movement, and an element 4 for placing the abrading head with a predetermined force against the surface to be cleaned. See abstract and figure 1. Iaboni et al does not specifically disclose a shell operationally connected with a universal mounting to the cleaning head with a counterweight nor an abrading head of the type which has a rotatably mounted and driven planet wheel with a number of driven abrading discs rotatably mounted thereon and fitted with abrading elements. The AAPA teaches a shell operationally connected with a universal mounting to the cleaning head with a counterweight (see applicant's specification at page 2, last 3 lines). The Great Britain reference discloses an abrading head of the type which has a rotatably mounted and driven planet wheel with a number of driven abrading discs rotatably mounted thereon and fitted with abrading elements. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Iaboni et al device by replacing the cleaning head with an abrading head of the type which has a rotatably mounted and driven planet wheel with a number of driven abrading discs rotatably mounted thereon and fitted with abrading

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elements, as taught by the Great Britain reference, in order to provide better cleaning of a wall surface. Also, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further modified the Iaboni et al by operationally connecting the "shell" of the abrading head with a universal mounting and a counterweight, as taught by the AAPA.

b. Regarding claim 4, applicant's broad recitation of the shell is intended to be mounted on the forks of the truck is seen to be met by Iaboni et al, as modified, since applicant is not positively reciting the device mounted on the forks.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. The cited prior art discloses abrading/cleaning devices.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy V. Eley whose telephone number is 571-272-4506. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer D. Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Timothy V. Eley/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3724

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